

REMARKS

Restriction/Election

Pursuant to the election/restriction requirement set by the Examiner, Applicants have herein elected with traverse Claims 1 - 7, 15, 17 - 26 of Species I of Invention I, which are drawn to a spin valve magnetic element. Applicants submit that Claims 1 - 7, 15, 17 - 26 are directed to a single patentably distinct Species I of Invention I and has accordingly elected the corresponding Group I of claims, as required by the Examiner.

As stated by the Examiner and agreed by the Applicants, claim 1 is generic to all of the patentably distinct species, and a relationship between the claims and the figures is shown below:

Species I: Figures 1 – 4, and 20 – 21; Claims 1 - 7, 15, 17 – 26.

Species II: Figures 5 & 9; Claims 9, 11 and 13.

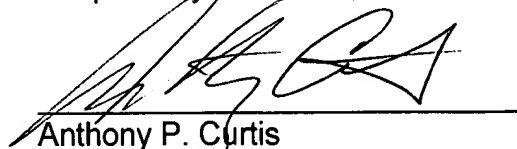
Species III: Figures 6; Claims 16.

Species IV: Figure 7; Claims 8, 10, 12, and 14.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. Applicants believe a one-month extension is due and a corresponding check is enclosed. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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